



Great Western Trail (GWT)

Sweetwater Section TR. NO. 001.2

Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District

General Description: The Great Western Trail is a continuous trail system that extends from Canada to Mexico and crosses through Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. The trail is marked by the Great Western Trail symbol and has sections open to hikers, bikers, horseman, and Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs). Approximately 80 miles of the Great Western Trail traverses the Escalante District, utilizing existing trail systems.

Mileage: 9.4 miles one way

Difficulty: Foot: Easy
Bike: Moderate
Horse: Easy
OHV: Including E-bikes, permitted only where this trail follows open roads

Trailhead access: Graded dirt road

Elevation loss / gain: 400 feet

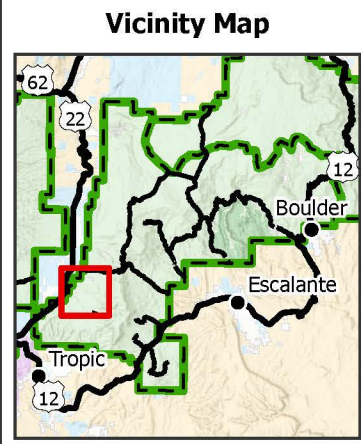
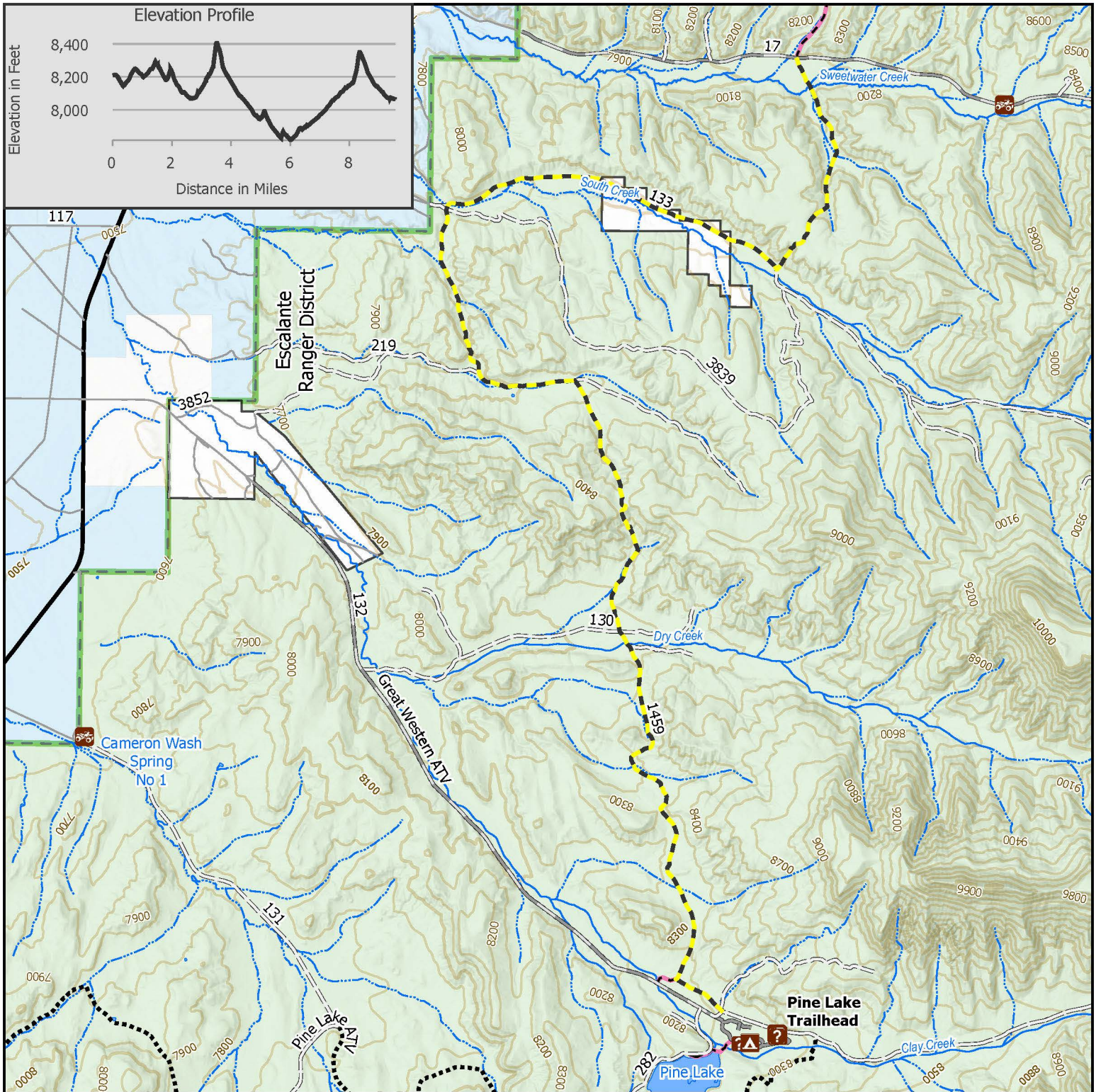
Water availability: Water may be available in South Creek but is not reliable. Bring your own water for day hikes. All water should be filtered or treated before drinking.

Hazards / obstacles: Weather can change quickly. Be prepared for cold weather year round. Ridges, saddles, view points and open meadows are dangerous during thunderstorms. Impassable when wet.

Topo maps: USGS 7.5 minute quads: Pine Lake, Sweetwater Creek

The Trailhead: From Tropic drive 7.4 miles west on Hwy 12 to the Bryce Canyon / Antimony intersection. Turn north (right) toward Antimony. This is county road 1660 locally know as Johns Valley Road. 10.7 miles down Johns Valley Road turn right on FR 132, signed Pine Lake Campground. Continue on FR 132 for 5.43 miles to the Pine Lake Campground. Turn left and follow the road (still FR 132) east .25 miles to the Pine Lake OHV trailhead

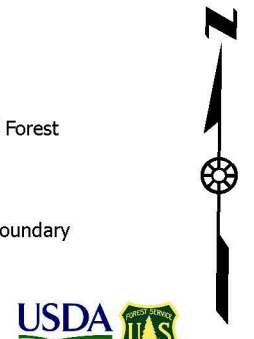
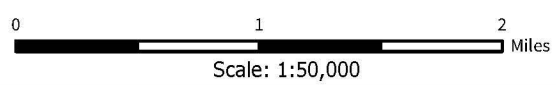
The Trail: This portion of the GWT mostly follows open roads or old roads that are closed to motorized vehicles. The trail begins on FR 132 just across from the entrance of Pine Lake Campground. Follow the two track to the west for 0.3 miles. The two track will come to a road in an open area often used as a dispersed campsite. Turn right, heading north, on this road. Keep an eye out for blazes and GWT markers as several spur roads will take off from this road. At 2.6 miles the trail crosses FR 1460. At 3.5 miles the trail begins a steep climb up a loose red hill. At the top of the hill the trail will pass through a metal gate then descend down to Mud Springs Draw. At 4.5 miles turn left on the road and head west. At 4.8 miles the trail passes Mud Spring. When the road begins to turn north look for the trail leaving the road on the right. At 6 miles the trail comes out on a road. There is a trail sign here. The trail crosses the road toward an old homestead then comes out on FR 133 and turns right (east). Follow FR 133. At 8 miles the trail turns left and leaves the road. There is another trail sign here. The trail heads up a drainage. At the top of the hill the trail crosses an old road then descends down a drainage on the other side. At the bottom of the hill at 8.85 miles the trail comes to a fork, stay left. At 9.3 miles the trail crosses a steep sided drainage and ends across the sage flat at forest highway 17.



GWT: Sweetwater Section

Escalante Ranger District, Dixie National Forest

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|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Campground | Improved, Gravel | Trail Motorized | National Forest |
| Interpretive Site | Improved, Dirt | Trail Non-Motorized | Private |
| OHV Staging Area | Improved, Paved | Non-Forest Road | State |
| Trailhead | Unimproved Road (4WD) | Perennial Stream | Forest Boundary |
| GWT Sweetwater | Highway | Intermittent Stream | |



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